

Queen of the rakyat's heart

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 Photo by G.C. TAN

SULTANAH of Kedah, Tuanku Haminah Hamidun, is popularly known among her subjects as a soft-spoken queen and for her grace. However, she is also known for her fierce passion for the welfare of her subjects, having been involved in various charitable organisations to raise funds and help those in need.

Tuanku Haminah often takes it upon herself to personally attend functions and dinners held in aid of the needy or in the company of her husband, the Sultan of Kedah, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah.

Her concern was evident when she took the time to accompany her husband on a visit to evacuees at the relief centres during the floods that swept the state in November last year, asking about their welfare and handing out aid.

Her constant visits to hospitals and



Tuanku Haminah and Tuanku Abdul Halim cheering up toddler Khairunisa Dayana, who was being treated for pneumonia during a visit to the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Alor Star. Below: Tuanku Haminah accompanied by Tuanku Abdul Halim greeting centenarian Chah Abdullah when the royal couple visited flood victims temporarily housed at the Suka Menanti Indoor Stadium last year.

orphanages with aid and goodies for the patients and residents never cease to bring smiles to their faces.

As a keen golfer and an enthusiastic tennis player, Tuanku Haminah shares the same sporting passion as her husband.

She has participated in various golf tournaments in the state, including the Merbok Parliament Charity Golf Tournament in Sungai Petani and the Golf Tournament between the Sultanah Kedah team and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) – even winning some titles.

She is also known to have initiated several tournaments for amateur women golfers, such as the Kedah International Red Tee Invitation held in Langkawi recently which attracted more than 50 participants from countries in the region.

Tuanku Haminah was born on July 15, 1953, in Bagan Serai, Perak, to Hamidun Taib and Isma Mohamad. She is the fourth child among her seven siblings.

For her early education, she attended the SK Matang Jelutong before furthering her studies at SM Inggeris Bagan Serai.

She married Tuanku Abdul Halim on Dec 25, 1975, at the age of 22.

Tuanku Haminah carried the title Che



Puan Kedah before she was proclaimed as Sultanah of Kedah on Jan 9, 2004, following the death of Almarhum Sultanah Bahiyah Tuanku Abdul Rahman on Aug 26, 2003.

Tuanku Haminah was awarded the Darjah Kerabat Kedah (D.K.) and Darjah Kerabat Halimi (D.K.H.) during the Sultan Kedah Golden Jubilee Celebration in 2008.